



Photo: BLM Nevada

# Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Public Forum

## *Summary Report*



## Great Basin LCC Public Forum Overview

The Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative hosted an online Public Forum from Dec. 8 -19, 2014. The purpose of the Public Forum was to invite the Great Basin conservation community to:

1. Review, and provide additional suggestions to the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge priorities
2. Discuss the management implementation and challenges of these priorities
3. Recommend potential Steering Committee members from non-governmental and private organizations to fill vacant seats
4. Preview the new Great Basin LCC website and provide feedback

The Public Forum began with a kickoff webinar to provide an overview of the Great Basin LCC, introduce the Public Forum and demonstrate the online discussion tools. In addition to the online tools, three call in sessions provided opportunities for the conservation community to provide their input. The Public Forum site was available for two weeks.

### Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative PUBLIC FORUM

Welcome Overview Projects S-TEK Priorities Implementation Steering Committee Website Web Survey Thank you

## Welcome Next

Welcome to the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GBLCC) Public Forum. This Public Forum aims to bring together members of the Great Basin conservation community to learn about the work of the GBLCC and provides an opportunity for the GBLCC to gather feedback on a few of our key initiatives.

In this Public Forum, we will ask for your input on the Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) priorities and implementation, suggestions for new Steering Committee members and feedback on the new GBLCC website. Several stations will direct you to open an online collaboration tool called MeetingSphere. These sessions will open in a new tab and will facilitate dialogue on various topics.

Feel free to visit this site as many times as you'd like throughout the week. Don't forget to share this link with your friends and colleagues! **This site will close at midnight on Friday Dec. 12.** A summary of the key findings will be made available soon after.

Thanks for visiting!

**Next station**

**Don't miss your chance to join the discussion! Follow the feedback links throughout the site.**



Black Rock Desert Hot Springs and Playa at the Applegate National Historic Trail. Photo courtesy of Todd Hopkins

**Contact Us:**  
EMAIL: [info@greatbasinlcc.org](mailto:info@greatbasinlcc.org) WEB: [greatbasinlcc.org](http://greatbasinlcc.org)

## Public Forum Participation by the numbers



## Public Feedback

The following are key takeaways from the Public Forum comments and responses collected during the Forum. These are meant to summarize key ideas, not provide a verbatim recount of all responses. The views are represented may have been stated once or multiple times.

## Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) priorities

### Priorities that were identified as missing from the strategy:

- Multiple commenters wanted to see more emphasis on data management (including GIS) that works across jurisdictional boundaries and include quality assurance and standardization.
- A specific focus on intermittent and ephemeral streams characterized by episodic flow regimes is missing.
- The strategy should increase attention to Idaho and Oregon research.
- Research is needed to understand disturbance regimes, beyond fire and invasives (i.e. drought and moth outbreaks), in the Great Basin.
- Water and the wild horses in the Great Basin, along with the protection and preservation of the fish and wildlife should be of paramount interest to the LCCs.
- More research into sagebrush recovery following stand removal is needed.
- Research is needed on the use of beavers to create natural reservoirs as a form of resilience against changing precipitation regimes
- “Wetlands, groundwater, springs, playas” priority topic didn’t include mention of irrigation practices and intensity.

### Research needs that were identified as critical regardless of scope:

- Quantifiable monitoring protocol for assessing the condition of lentic sites such as small remote springs and seeps
- Ecological Site Descriptions for riparian areas across the Great Basin
- Impacts of feral horse and burro use on remote riparian areas
- Development of appropriate condition assessment methods (especially rapid methods) and indicators of health for non-perennial (i.e., intermittent and ephemeral) streams
- High resolution vegetation data
- Complete higher resolution soils mapping
- Climate change effects on the resources and economies of the Great Basin
- Adequate geographic coverage of monitoring stations available to assess climate variability and its impact

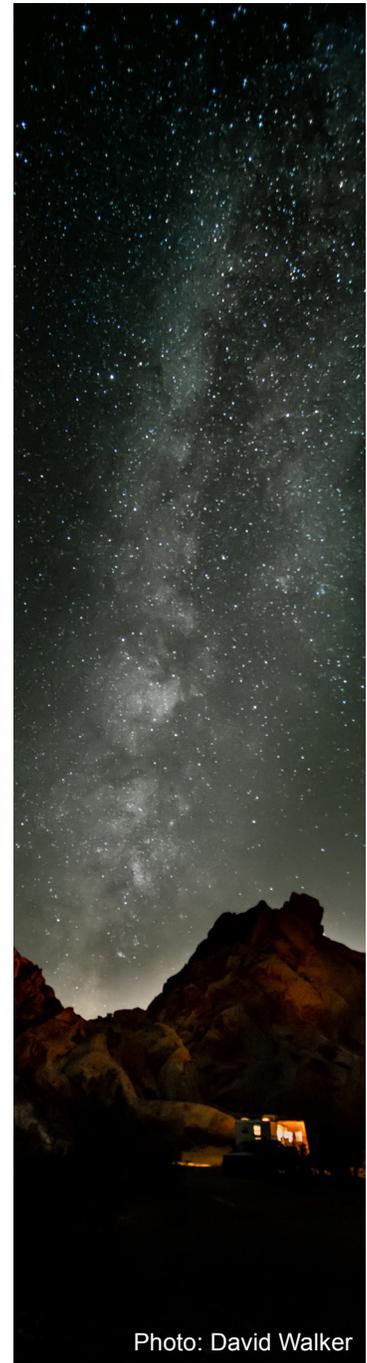


Photo: David Walker

Star Gazing and Camping Under the Milky Way. Whitney Pocket ACEC, Southern Nevada District.

- Work that increases public understanding of the importance of scientific studies and increases elected representative support for project funding and collaborative conservation efforts
- Study costs of pre-treating (prescriptive removal) of high density pinon juniper forests versus the costs of rehabilitation and restoration after fires
- Information to public about the benefits of managing invasive pinon juniper forest
- Information to public about the upcoming Greater Sage-grouse decision; what role science has played in that decision, what role politics has played in that decision, how that decision will impact communities, economy, landscape and wildlife
- A catalogue of the aquatic species (and units of conservation) in springs, streams, rivers and standing waters
- A systematic, comprehensive and spatially explicit inventory of the distribution of key aquatic species
- Changes in the distribution of aquatic species based on occupancy modeling, filtered through models forecasting changes in water temperature and stream flow
- The long term changes in available groundwater, especially in over appropriated basins and potential strategies to manage water sources into the future
- More effective ways to educate the local and national public on the short and long term impacts of livestock and wild horses and burros
- Research into how our current habitats will begin to resemble habitats that currently exist elsewhere due to climate change
- Sacred Site protection
- Fish, wildlife, water and natural habitat management



Photo: John Boehmke

The Great Basin Landscape

## Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (S-TEK) implementation

### Recommendations for outreach and information for researchers as they develop project proposals:

- Outreach work should focus on engaging a wide range of stakeholders and community members
- Researchers who are developing project proposals would benefit from concise, clearly identified problem areas and explanations on how criteria are weighted in the decision process.

### Suggestions for improving the GBLCC strategic plan to improve operations and implementation:

- An implementation plan is needed to identify specific actions, responsible parties, resources needed and products and outcomes expected.
- Work should compensate TEK holders and elders at the same rate as scientists and academics.
- There is interest in increasing the amount of outreach to tribes and tribal representation in the LCCs, this is complicated when some tribes span several LCCs.
- Research should seek tribal consultation on projects in their ancestral land, and involve tribes in long-term monitoring protocols.
- There was a recommendation to set aside non-competitive money for tribes to utilize in restoration and conservation efforts.

### Recommendations on size of projects for funding:

- The GBLCC should balance large scale and small scale projects and avoid having a year without funding.
- Funding should be divided between aquatic and terrestrial projects, rather than on a focal species.

### Suggested criteria for selecting implementation priorities:

- The immediacy of any threats, applicability to large areas and support among stakeholders are criteria that should be considered when selecting amongst implementation priorities.

### Additional actions recommended:

- The LCCs should focus on broad spatial scales and thinking holistically across ecosystem types. Research priorities should focus on what is needed to develop landscape scale conservation not just scattered science questions.
- Involve the public through opportunities to provide public input, interact with educational tools (K-12), and engage in crowdsourcing opportunities

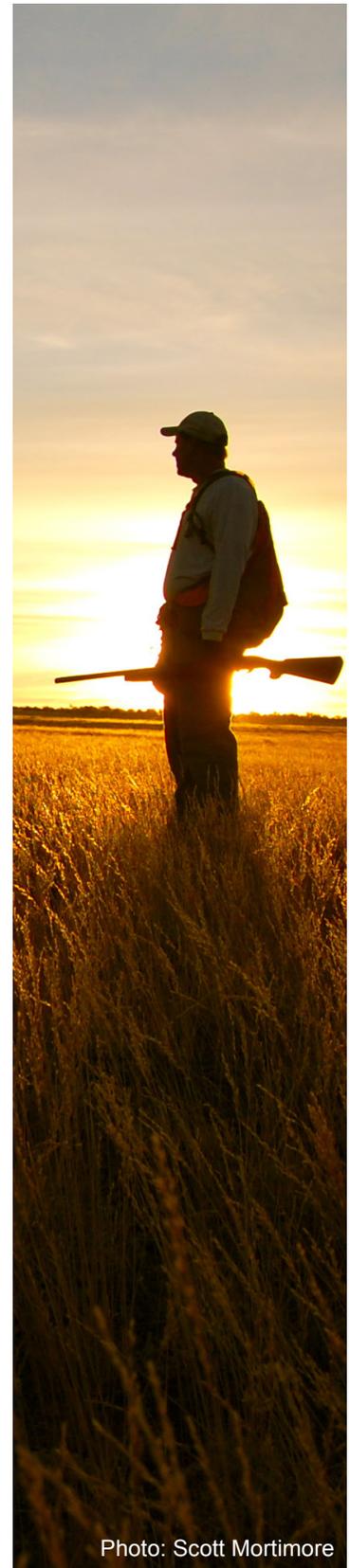


Photo: Scott Mortimore

Sage Grouse Hunt. East of Vya, Nevada in the northern Washoe tablelands, Carson City District.

- Coordinate agencies, tribes, jurisdictions and organizations doing conservation and creating land use plans in order to better understand the impacts of their efforts on a broad landscape scale
- Allow tribal consultation on projects and engage tribes in long-term monitoring
- Address livestock grazing in and around springs, wetlands and forests
- Support youth programs and involve tribal youth
- Create visually-appealing and interactive educational materials for the local and national general public
- Protect at-risk species (i.e. Redband trout and Modoc sucker fish) and ensure they are on the endangered species list if applicable

## GBLCC NGO Steering Committee Membership

The below organizations were suggested as potential new Steering Committee members. There are six vacant NGO seats. Some of the suggestions were tribal representatives. There are five seats on the Steering Committee dedicated to Tribes.

- Trout Unlimited
- Idaho Bird Observatory
- Pit River Tribe Representative
- Burns Paiute Tribe Representative
- Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Representative
- Fort Bidwell Tribe Representative
- Cedarville Rancheria Representative
- Friends of Nevada Wilderness
- Any of the water boards (e.g., Central Nevada Regional Water Authority, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority, etc.).
- Nevada Outdoor School (only if focus is put on a K-12 educational component).
- Nevada Creeks and Communities
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory or Intermountain Bird Observatory



Photo: Dominic Gentilcore

Newark Valley Lightning. Newark Valley, White Pine County, Nevada.

## Great Basin LCC Website Survey Themes

- Based on the site map and navigation, users agreed that they can navigate the website to find useful content and features.
- Volunteer and public involvement opportunities, such as citizen science, should be featured on the website.
- The website should provide information about existing and available data in the Great Basin.
- There is interest in an interactive map.
- Participants are most interested in using the website to learn about the latest landscape scale science and TEK projects in the region.
- Great Basin LCC Strategic Plan and Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge strategy would most help users understand the Great Basin LCC.
- There is interest in seeing information on how the Great Basin LCC and its projects are making a difference in the region and how data are linked to decision making.
- The website should provide a synthesis of the landscape-level work happening in the Great Basin.
- The website should provide updates on the funded projects and offer project tours if possible.
- The website should make it easy for users to share events and updates.
- Several pages on the website are filterable by categories. These categories should include social and human components of the environment.
- The website should take advantage of collaborative tools to facilitate more coordinated work across the Great Basin.

Date ▼	Title ▼	Location ▼	Website
11/5/2014 - 11/5/2014	Webinar – Finding Climate Change Information and Other Data Sources	Webinar	Website
11/6/2014 - 11/6/2014	Humans and climate and oceans: Relative influences on dissolved oxygen in the Salish Sea through 2070	Webinar	Website
11/13/2014 - 11/13/2014	How does eelgrass affect carbonate chemistry in the nearshore and what does it mean for thinking about ocean acidification in Puget Sound?	Webinar	Website
11/18/2014 - 11/18/2014	ACCAP Alaska Climate Webinar: A Tale of Two Synthesis Efforts: The PacMARS and SOAR Programs	Webinar	Website

Simulation of one of the GBLCC web pages that will be filterable by categories represented with supporting icons.